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Cost Of Intelligence

Some "Risk" must be involved in making public the overall cost of intelligence-gathering, even without elaboration, according to Stansfield Turner, chief of the Central Intelligence Agency.

But recent revelations of questionable activities by the CIA have made the public — and, of greater significance, Congress — suspicious of CIA credibility and of the credibility of the en-

tire intelligence community.

"Times have changed," Turner conceded. Furthermore, he acknowledged, "we are a free and open society. It is appropriate that our citizens be kept as well informed as possible about activities of their government."

Thus Turner advanced the compromise proposed by the Carter administration to release

publicly the single budget figure, previously hidden in other appropriations, as opposed to some congressional demands for complete disclosure.

International intrigue is a life-and-death game played in a dangerous arena. The search for secrets must be carried out in some secrecy. To go beyond the compromise would be gambling with national security.